

REMARKS

The Examiner had sent a Notice of Allowance dated September 26, 2003 in this case based on the "induction of chondrocyte redifferentiation" assay and stated that Applicants were entitled to the priority of PCT application No. PCT/US98/19330, filed September 16, 1998. However, Applicants have discovered that the cited PCT application lacks adequate support for the "chondrocyte redifferentiation" assay. Instead, Applicants the utility of the antibodies to PRO224 in this application on the "inhibition of VEGF stimulation of endothelial cell growth" assay (Assay 9), which was first disclosed in PCT/US98/19330, filed on September 16, 1998 at least at pages 170-172. Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider this case based on the present amendment. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added in this amendment.

Applicants hereby address the rejections in the final Office action as applied to the amended claims, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

Drawings

The Examiner had indicated that formal drawings were required in the Notice of Allowance. Applicants submit that the drawings sent at the time of filing were formal and hence, no such further requirement is necessary. Hence, this requirement should be withdrawn.

The present application is believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Attorney's Docket No. 39780-1618 P2C14). Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 8, 2003

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